

Subject Education: Department of Education Office of the Inspector General

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Overview

This bill expands the authority of the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to investigate fraud, waste, or abuse in MDE programs and impose sanctions in response to such investigations.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Hiring; reporting. Strikes existing data practices provisions related to the OIG.
2	Subpoenas. Authorizes the OIG to issue subpoenas and compel testimony related to OIG audits or investigations. Requires that a subpoena recipient may not disclose the fact that the subpoena was issued.
3	Access to records. Gives the OIG access to certain government data and other documents and records related to programs funded by MDE.
4	Recommended actions. Provides that the OIG may recommend that the commissioner impose sanctions when an OIG investigation uncovers evidence of fraud, waste, or abuse. Empowers the commissioner to impose the recommended sanctions. Sanctions may include withholding of MDE payments. Also, provides a process for imposing sanctions, including notice and the opportunity to challenge the sanctions in a contested case proceeding under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section	Description
5	Data practices. Clarifies that it is not a violation of the Government Data Practices Act for a government entity to provide data to the OIG under this section. States that the OIG is subject to the Data Practices Act.



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